

Mayor of Souderton Dan Yocum

Mayor's Memo!



Our Public Works crew are truly the unsung heroes of Souderton Borough. They are the showcase of your tax dollars at work. Of the multitude of services that your municipality provides, the work that affects you most directly is largely a result of the tireless efforts of our Public Works Department. Let's take a moment to appreciate all the incredible work, seen and unseen, that this small but mighty crew does to keep our community clean and running smoothly.

Our Public Works Department is unique in several incredible ways. First of all, because of the longevity of our staff;

- Steve Coll, Public Works Director, was hired in August of 1988.
- David Freed, Crew Leader, was hired in October of 1989.
- Tim Kelly, Forman, was hired in December of 1996.
- Jason Kelly, Crew Member, was hired in December of 2000
- Seph Renner, Crew Member, was hired in April of 2021.

In addition to several valued part-time crew members, this equates to a whopping 120+ years of dedicated experience directly on the streets of Souderton. *That is amazing!* And because of that remarkable longevity, our crew is able to accomplish far more than most departments of their size. Many small municipalities outsource functions like road paving, capital improvement projects, sewer maintenance, etc. which Souderton Borough Public Works crew does in-house. It is incalculable how much money that has saved the Borough over the past 30+ years; hundreds of thousands of dollars at least.

The list of responsibilities held by our Souderton Public Works crew is long and ever-growing. We ask a lot of them, and they always deliver. I couldn't possibly list all the things on their "to-do list", but I'll highlight some areas of focus. They are tasked with paving our streets, from minor duties like filling potholes to major road reconstruction projects. They maintain and service the tens of thousands of feet of underground water and sewer pipes that we tend to take for granted. The fact that don't have to think twice about flushing your toilet is because our Public Works crew has maintained, upgraded, and serviced our sanitary sewer lines throughout the Borough. They beautifully maintain our community parks with constant mowing, trash pickup, and general maintenance, along with Hillside Cemetery and many nooks & crannies around

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Borough Council Meeting

Monday, August 7 at 7pm
Souderton Borough Hall

Concert Sundaes

Last one of the season!
Motor City Revue
Sunday, August 6 at 7pm
Souderton Community Park

Third Friday

Friday, August 18 from 6-9pm
Main & Chestnut Streets

IVPL Dinner In White

Saturday, August 19 at 4:30pm
Souderton Community Park
Buy tickets in advance!

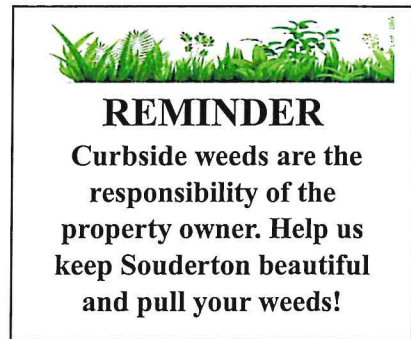
Fire Company Benefit Concert

Saturday, August 26 at 6pm
Jesse's Barbeque & Local Market

Souderton that you likely do not even realize. The crew opens, fills, maintains, balances, and closes the Souderton Pool each summer. They also hang banners, flower baskets, café lighting, and holiday decorations throughout the year.

Souderton Borough is unique in offering complimentary curbside leaf and brush pickup, which is all handled by our dynamic Public Works crew. Please be conscientious when taking advantage of this service, which is meant to assist residents with the disposal of small amounts of yard waste. When residents put full trees at the curb, our crew must spend hours at a single house dismantling debris with the wood chipper.

Do your kids run to the window when they see our Street Sweeper drive by? That is the Public Works Department too! Most people don't understand the true importance of our street sweeping program. It is not just for aesthetics. A regular street sweeping program is a requirement of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to remain in compliance with our Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. It reduces the amount of pollutants and debris that ultimately discharge into our water supply. So when we put up those "No Parking" signs on your street every year, it's for good reason!



Another tireless effort of our Public Works Department is snow plowing. When a snowstorm hits, your Souderton Borough crew will work through the night to get our roads and alleys cleared as quickly as possible. That often entails long hours in the cold with little sleep and in treacherous conditions. All with the goal of keeping you safe.

On the topic of public safety, we are also extremely blessed that our entire Public Works crew are firefighters for the Souderton Fire Company. During the day, when many of our other volunteer firefighters are unavailable, we can count on our Public Works crew to answer the call. We regularly hear from other fire companies and municipalities around our region who are envious of the great working relationship between our Borough and Fire Company.

We also task our Public Works crew with other large capital projects that are atypical of most municipal crews. Thanks to the unique skill set of our crew members, major improvements at the train station (Northbound Restaurant), freight building (future home of Brass Collar Brewing), community park, downtown hardscaping, pool renovations, and parking lot improvements have all been spearheaded by our Public Works crew. Their work again saves an enormous amount of taxpayer dollars and improves the beautification of Souderton as a whole.

A large part of being Mayor is fielding complaints from residents. When you see a pot hole in front of your house, graffiti in the park, or leaves in the Souderton Pool, I understand the immediate urge to assume the Borough is "doing nothing" or simply ignoring a problem. But after reading this Mayor's Memo, I hope you might pause and think of all the wonderful attributes that our community has to offer, many of which are a direct result of our Public Works crew. We don't always get it perfect, but we do a darn good job here in Souderton. Next time you see our Public Works crew paving asphalt in 100 degree weather, or salting the roads in an ice storm, or simply going about their day to keep our Borough beautiful, please take a moment to thank them. They truly are the best of the best!